

**REMARKS:**

Claims 1-6 and 8-25 are pending in this application, with claims 8 and 9 being withdrawn pursuant to an Election of Species Requirement. Claims 1, 6, 10, 15, 21 and 25 are amended. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102(b)**

Claims 1-6, 10, 12-21, 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US 4,593,953 to Baba et al. According to the Office Action, Baba discloses all the elements of the claimed invention including, in particular, at least one protection means configured to cover and expose at least partly a “radially outward face of the brake disk.” In support of that position, the Examiner asserts that the “radially outward face” of the brake disk is a relatively broad phrase, i.e. so as to encompass the side surfaces that are covered and exposed in Baba (as explained in the previous response).

Independent Claims 1, 15, and 25 have been amended to clarify that the protection means (claim 1), contamination shield (claim 15), or protection cover (claim 25) is configured to cover and expose at least partly an edge surface of the brake disk.

Baba discloses a wheel cover having a plurality of ventilation openings 6 and respective closing plates 7. The ventilation openings 6 and the closing plates 7 of Baba are provided to cover and expose the side face of the associated brake disk, not the edge surface of the brake disk (which is where the air directly strikes the brake disk when exposed while the vehicle is moving, as required by independent claims 1, 15 and 25). As such, Baba does not anticipate independent claims 1, 15, and 25 and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn. The dependent claims are deemed to be allowable for at least the reasons described above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above rejection of the claims.

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The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.187.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tracy W. Druce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" and last name "Druce" clearly distinguishable.

Tracy W. Druce, Esq.  
Reg. No. 35,493